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MORSE DEMANDS DIRECTOR OF CIA QUIT; MANSFIELD OPPOSES OUSTER

Praise for Editorial Attacking Fulbright and Activity in Docd Case Cited

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WASHINGTON, July 29—Senator Wayne Morse (Dem.), Oregon, called today for the resignation of Richard M. Helms as director of the Central Intelligence Agency in the spreading controversy over Helms's letter praising an editorial attacking Senator J. William Fulbright in the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*.

Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield of Montana disagreed. He said that the new head of the CIA had made a mistake but had faced up to it and "ought to be given a chance." Helms was rebuked by Mansfield and other Senators yesterday for the letter.

Morse made his demand in a statement issued from his office as members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee heard Helms in closed session. Late yesterday Helms apologized to Fulbright, the committee chairman, saying the letter had been a mistake.

Charges Violation

Helms can "best serve his country by resigning," because he has violated the legal mandate not to operate within the United States or influence or participate in affairs within this country, Morse said. The Oregon Senator has long been one of CIA's sternest critics and a leader in the move to include foreign relations members on the special committee overseeing the intelligence agency's activities. He renewed this demand in today's statement.

Morse referred to the letter to the *Globe-Democrat* as "only a small segment of what is going on" as he renewed the demand "that we find out what the CIA is doing to influence public opinion, public policy and the outcome of elections."

Helms, the Morse statement said, has twice intruded in matters directly concerning the Senate, the second intrusion being a reference to Helms's letter verifying the mission to Germany of Senator Thomas J. Dodd to Germany purportedly on a security investigation. That letter was released by the Senate committee investigating Dodd's relations with Julius Klein, lobbyist for German interests.

Activities Extended

This, therefore, Morse said, "disqualifies him for further useful service in his present capacity." The "covert activities of the CIA have now been extended to the domestic affairs of our own country."

When newspapermen asked Fulbright for comment on Morse's statement, he said, "I think it's premature." He asserted, "That is what today's hearing is all about."

Fulbright, chairman of the committee, indicated that the inquiry might go far beyond the letter.

He said he wanted to ask Helms "whether or not his agency takes part in domestic affairs—for example, in the elections in our labor unions."

Fulbright did not explain that remark except to say that he had heard rumors to that effect. There have been reports that the CIA has in some manner assisted George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO.

Four members of the CIA supervisory committee, which now represents only the Armed Services and Appropriations committees, joined in the criticism of Helms's letter and the defense of Fulbright.

Symington Disapproves

Senator Stuart Symington (Dem.), Missouri, a member of the special unit, called Fulbright "an able and patriotic American" and said, "this is a most unfortunate occurrence and one for which I hope there is some explanation."

Other members of the special committee made similar statements. Senator John Stennis (Dem.), Mississippi, spoke of "this unfortunate letter" and said he thought Helms had relied on bad advice rather than on his own independent judgment.

Senator Leverett Saltonstall (Rep.), Massachusetts, expressed regret over the injection of "personal remarks" into the question of CIA supervision. Senator Milton R. Young (Rep.), North Dakota, said Helms's comments were not "appropriate policy."

Fulbright said the CIA director told him "he was sorry and regretted the letter and said he didn't really feel that way about me."

"I was glad to hear that," Fulbright said.

Helms said he had told Fulbright: "I made a mistake and I sincerely regret it."

A CIA source said the letter was one of several that had been written to newspapers commenting on editorials on the same issue.

It was learned that the letter was written by a veteran CIA public relations official, Stanley Grogan, a retired Army colonel, and presented to Helms for signature. The letter was published in the *Globe-Democrat* Wednesday.

Senator Eugene J. McCarthy (Dem.), Minnesota, touched off the discussion yesterday by reading the *Globe-Democrat* editorial, titled "Brickbats for Fulbright" and Helms's letter. McCarthy was a leader in the effort to expand Senate supervision of the CIA. The proposal was sidetracked last month by sending it to the Armed Services Committee.

"I shall not take issue particularly with the editorial itself," McCarthy said. "I suppose it is within the limits of irresponsibility which must be allowed on the editorial page." But the letter, he went on, was a "new departure" from the professed principle that the CIA does not involve itself in domestic politics.

Sees Political Implications

McCarthy contended that the CIA director, if left unchallenged, might begin indorsing candidates in political campaigns by writing letters praising editorials indorsing them. He said Helms owed an apology to Fulbright and to every member of the Senate.

Fulbright said, "I am shocked that a director of the CIA should go out of his way to write a letter to the editor of, I would say, a rather radical newspaper. It certainly takes a radical position on foreign policy and is most unrestrained in its criticism of anyone who disagrees with its position, as it was in this editorial."

Fulbright said he was "surprised that a career man would have so little discretion. I wonder if this new director hasn't misconstrued the so-called vote of confidence as a removal of all restraints and the granting of the power to do as he pleases with the area of domestic activities."

Helms's nomination as director had been confirmed unanimously by the Senate last month. President Lyndon B. Johnson had promoted him from deputy director to succeed Vice Admiral William Raborn.

Senator Frank Moss (Dem.), Utah, said Helms "may have limited his usefulness" as director of the CIA. "It is shocking to have the director of the CIA, which is supposed to operate clandestinely and with no publicity, choose to come out in print trying to capitalize on an editorial so offensive and derogatory," he said.

Senator Mike Monroney (Dem.), Oklahoma, joined in expressing respect for Fulbright and confidence in him as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem.), South Carolina, observed that he and Fulbright often disagreed on issues. However, he said, "I hope that out of this matter will come an appreciation by the director of the CIA of the great truth that men rarely regret saying too little."